

Daka language

Daka (Dakka, Dekka, rarely Deng or Tikk) is one of two languages spoken by the Chamba people in Nigeria, the other being Chamba Leko.

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Varieties

Daka is a dialect cluster. The Chamba dialect is called **Chamba Daka** (or *Samba*, *Tsamba*, *Tchamba*, *Sama*, *Jama Daka*; also Nakanyare) and constitutes 90% of speakers. Chamba Daka is also called *Sámá Mūm*.^[3]

Other dialects are *Dirim* (Dirin, Dirrim), *Lamja*, *Dengsa*, and *Tola*. Dirim and Lamja–Dengsa–Tola have separate ISO coding, but *Ethnologue* notes that they are 'close to Samba Daka and may be a dialect' or 'may not be sufficiently distinct from Samba Daka to be a separate language', and actually lists Dirim as a dialect under Daka. Blench (2011) lists Dirim as coordinate with other Daka varieties: Nnakenyare, Mapeo, Jangani, Lamja, Dirim, suggesting that if Lamja and Dirim are considered separate languages, as in *Ethnologue*, then Samba Daka itself needs to be broken up into three additional languages.

Blench lists the following varieties as Samba Daka dialects.^[4]

- Samba Jangani
- Samba Nnakenyare
- Samba of Mapeo

Classification

Greenberg placed Samba Daka within his Adamawa proposal, as group G3, but Bennett (1983) demonstrated to general satisfaction that it is a Benue–Congo language, though its placement within Benue–Congo is disputed. Blench (2011) considers it to be Bantoid. Boyd (ms), however, considers Daka an isolate

Daka	
Region	 northern Nigeria
Ethnicity	Chamba people, others
Native speakers	(120,000 cited 1992–2000) ^[1]
Language family	<div>Niger–Congo <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Atlantic–Congo<ul style="list-style-type: none">Benue–Congo<ul style="list-style-type: none">Dakoid<ul style="list-style-type: none">Daka–Taram<ul style="list-style-type: none">Daka</div>
Dialects	<div>Nnakenyare <div>Mapeo</div> <div>Jangani</div> <div>Lamja</div> <div>Dirim</div> </div>
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	Variously: <div>ccg – Chamba Daka</div> <div>dir – Dirim</div> <div>ldh – Lamja–Dengsa–Tola</div>
Glottolog	tara1325 (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/tara1325) ^[2]

branch within Niger–Congo (Blench 2008). Blench (2011) lists Taram as a separate, though closely related, language.

References

1. Chamba Daka (<https://www.ethnologue.com/18/language/ccg/>) at *Ethnologue* (18th ed., 2015) Dirim (<https://www.ethnologue.com/18/language/dir/>) at *Ethnologue* (18th ed., 2015) Lamja–Dengsa–Tola (<https://www.ethnologue.com/18/language/ldh/>) at *Ethnologue* (18th ed., 2015)
2. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Taram–Dirim–Nnakenyare" (<http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/tara1325>). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.
3. Chamba-Daka materials from Raymond Boyd (<https://www.rblanguagesdafrique.info/sama.html>)
4. Blench, Roger (2019). *An Atlas of Nigerian Languages* (4th ed.). Cambridge: Kay Williamson Educational Foundation.

Further reading

- Blench (2008) *Prospecting proto-Plateau* (<https://web.archive.org/web/20140407193342/http://www.rogerblench.info/Language/Niger-Congo/BC/Plateau/General/Prospecting%20proto-Plateau%20Unicode.pdf>). Manuscript.
- Blench, Roger, 2011. 'The membership and internal structure of Bantoid and the border with Bantu' (<http://www.rogerblench.info/Language/Niger-Congo/Bantoid/General/Blench%20Bantu%20IV%20Berlin%20Bantoid%202011.pdf>). *Bantu IV*, Humboldt University, Berlin.

External links

- Chamba-Daka materials from Raymond Boyd (<https://www.rblanguagesdafrique.info/sama.html>)

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